



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Reply To
Attn Of: ETPA-088

Ref: 05-057-AFS

Ms. Suzanne C. Rainville, Forest Supervisor
Payette National Forest
800 W. Lakeside Avenue
McCall, ID 83638

Dear Ms. Rainville:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed **South Fork Salmon River Subbasin Noxious and Invasive Weed Management Program** (CEQ No. 20070202) on Krassel and McCall Ranger Districts, Payette National Forest and Cascade Ranger District, and Boise National Forest in Valley and Idaho counties, ID. Our review was conducted in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

In our comments on the draft EIS in December 2005, EPA expressed environmental concerns with the project due to potential adverse impacts to water quality and fishery resources. We recommended that the final EIS address unintended impacts to non-target species and persistence of herbicides in the project area. We also encouraged the Forest Service (FS) to expand use of Integrated Pest Management and to consider selection of Alternative C as the environmentally preferred alternative for implementation of this project.

Our review of the final EIS indicates that the FS was responsive to our comments on the draft EIS. We are pleased with the changes made to the EIS using comments received from agencies and the public. We support the selection of the slightly modified Alternative C.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the final EIS and ROD for this project. If you have questions or comments concerning this review, please contact me at (206) 553-1601 or Theo Mbabaliye at (206) 553-6322.

Sincerely,

//s//

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
NEPA Review Unit

cc: EPA Idaho Operations Office